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The Hacker Quarterly

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Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology: An Update



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REMEMBER....

Why should we remember Abbie Hoffman? What relationship did he have with 2600?

Abbie was, of course, the founder of the Yippies, and the founder of YIPPI, which turned into TAP. TAP was the first publication to look at technology through hacker eyes. Its doubtful 2600 would exist in its present form were it not for the inspiration TAP offered.

But apart from that, Abbie Hoffman was, for all intents and purposes, a hacker of the highest order. No, he didn't go around breaking into computers, although we know the subject interested him. Abbie hacked authority, which is what a lot of us unwittingly do whenever we play with games and computers. Abbie, of course, was much more direct. He stood up to the ultimate computer system known as Society. He was relentless in his attack on the status quo. He

fought the Vietnam War, got arrested so many times that nobody could really keep track, and wound up pissing off Richard Nixon in no end. He became a fugitive from the law after being accused of dealing drugs, a charge he vehemently denied to his closest friends right up to the end. And even under a disguise, Abbie accomplished a lot under the name of Barry Freed, leading an environmental group called Save The River in upstate New York.

Abbie gained a reputation for outsmarting the FBI. It's reported that the FBI gathered more information on Abbie Hoffman than on anyone else in their entire history. That's something to be proud of.

Like a computer hacker, Abbie Hoffman was thought of as a pest by some. His presence was inconvenient and he made people uncomfortable because he wasn't afraid to point out the flaws.

A GUIDE TO

PRIMOS

by Violence
Introduction

This is the first in a series of studies dealing with Prime computers (both main and supermini) and their respective operating systems. PRIMOS, PRIMOS is one of the several operating systems that the general hacker community has avoided due to unfamiliarity. In all actuality, PRIMOS is a very user-friendly operating system and as such, demands respect. In this series of articles I will cover everything that is important to the aspiring PRIMOS hacker.

This series is largely based on extensive on-hands use, and all the information provided herein is guaranteed to be 100% accurate in regards to Revisions 19.xx through 22.xx of PRIMOS. I do occasionally address pre-revision 18.xx systems, but only in passing as they are extremely uncertain. In addition, all sample programs included herein have been fully tested. All PRIMOS output samples were taken from a Revision 22.00 PRIMOS system.

I chose to write this series in a technical manner, but not like a typical AIXT document (grr). All in all, this series does not equal or come close to the actual PRIMOS documentation, but since such documentation is generally unavailable to the hacker community, I have tried my best to create a series that is an acceptable alternative.

I have opted to remain purposefully vague in some areas due to potential abuse. This seems to be the rage these days and I'm sorry if that upsets you, but I have no wish to compromise any of Prime Computer, Inc.'s trade secrets.

Conventions

All command references in this series will follow the conventions put forth in the PRIMOS reference manuals and online help facilities. Conventions follow:

WORDS-IN-UPPERCASE Identify command words or keywords and are to be entered literally. All command abbreviations will be listed following the actual full command name.

Words-in-lowercase identify arguments.

You substitute the appropriate numerical or port value.

Braces { } indicate a choice of arguments and/or keywords. At least one must be selected.

Brackets [] indicate that the word or argument enclosed is optional.

Hypphens - indicate a constraint like option and must be entered literally.

Parentheses () must be entered literally. **Ellipses ...** indicates that the preceding argument may be repeated.

Angle Brackets < > are used literally to separate the elements of a pathname.

Options: The word options indicates that one or more keywords and/or arguments can be given and that a list of options for the command follow.

All examples throughout this text will be indented so that they will be easy to read. All text typed by the user in these examples will be completely displayed in lowercase characters. PRIMOS output will then be easy to identify.

System Identification

PRIMOS is Prime's uniform operating system for their extensive line of mini and supermini computers. A few years back, the Prime model 730 was all the rage. No longer is that the case, however, nowadays there are many models of Primes and corporations and governments (the two main Prime owner classes) purchase the models that best suit their individual needs. Thus, you will find Prime 850's (servant) and 750's (also ancient but still in vogue) to Prime 4150's (a mid range system), and the huge Prime 5550's (high-end mainframe). On the high end of this you will also find Prime MXXLs (super-minis) and Prime workstations. As you can see, the army of Primes is astoundingly large.

Equally large in number are the revisions of PRIMOS that they run. About all that you will see these days are Rev. 20.xx and greater but you will, on occasion, find a revision 17.xx, 18.xx, or 19.xx system. About the only places you will find 17.xx and 18.xx systems are on Korean packet switched networks (KSNs), like on Seoul's Inland or Remote networks and Japan's

Venus-PATH or DDX-PRKD networks). A scant few 19.xx and 18.xx systems are still operating in the United States. As said previously, however, you will most likely find Rev. 20.xx through 22.xx systems here (and in most other countries).

To understand how PRIMOS interfaces with users you need to have a good working grasp of what the standard PRIMOS operating system model looks like. To do this you need a decent abstract model.

Identifying a Prime mini or supermini computer is not very difficult. Primes generally behave in one of two ways when connected to. They either sit there, solving nothing to your screen or, in the case of a PRIME-TEC-equipped system, display their PRIME-TEC responses.

In the former case, by this simple test upon connecting. Type a few random keystrokes followed by a RETURN and leave note of what the host system responds with. If it responds with a battery of error messages followed with the rather distinctive ERI prompt, then it is a Prime. Here is an example:

```
Invalid command "ASDF"  
(process command)  
Login please.  
ERI
```

Any Prime that just sits there waiting for you to login is not running PRIME-TEC and generally lacks inter-system communications capability. On the other hand, those systems that are equipped with PRIME-TEC jump right out and yell "Hey! I'm a Prime" as they display their revision of PRIMOS and their system readiness upon connect. Here is an example.

```
PRIMENET 21.0.3 VOID  
That's all there is to Prime system icon  
Theoton Labe said. It's a rather trivial task  
Front-end Security
```

and System Penetration
Now that we have located a Prime, how do we bypass the front-end security and get hit? Well, before I can begin to answer that question a little discourse on the security itself is required.

The government has granted Primes a

C2 security rating. To give you an idea of what that means, VAXen are also classed as C2 systems. However, that C2 rating sort of blunders about. External security should really be a bit higher, as Prime Computer, Inc. tells their administrators to remove all defaults. Not very nice, eh? On the other hand, internal security is not so hot. I'll discuss internal security more fully later on.

The front door is similar to PRIMOS command level in that it utilizes the command line (the prompt and I/O sub systems). The only command which you can enter at this level of operation is the LOGIN

"PRIMOS is a very user-friendly operating system and as such, demands respect."

command. There is no "who" command available to you prior to system login. As Evil Jay pointed out in his "Hacking PRIMOS" files (volunes III), there is no easy way to get into a Prime computer, as its front door security is excellent.

At this point only one option lies available, unless, of course, you know someone on the inside (grr). This option is default accounts. How nice of Prime Computer, Inc. to install so many default accounts at their factories. As I have said, however, they tell their administrators to remove these default accounts after the system has been installed. Not a few administrators fail to remove these defaults, however, and that is good for us. Also, never forget that Prime users are people and people like to use easy-to-remember passwords. But before I go any further, let me explain the LOGIN command in greater detail (because is a virtue, you know).

Typically you will type 'LOGIN' and press RETURN. You will then be requested first for User ID and then your password. Here's yet another example:

HACKING AROUND ON

User id? user
 Password? <not echoed>
 Invalid user id or password; please
 try again.
 Login please.
 ER!

Well, that sure didn't work. Notice how PRIMOS didn't echo your password to you. The above example is from a non-PRIMENET Prime. After this bad entry you are probably still connected, so you can have another go at it. A non-PRIMENET system generally has a high bad login threshold, so you can make many attempts per connect. A PRIMENET system on the other hand is more of a bitch to hack as it will disconnect you after the first incorrect login. Here's another example (assuming you are hacking a PRIMENET system from the TELENET X 25 network):

```
@214XXXX
214 XXXX CONNECTED
PRIMENET 20.0.0 VOID
Login user:
Password? <not echoed>
Invalid user id or password; please
try again.
```

```
214 XXXX DISCONNECTED 00:00
00:00:00:00:00 9 7
```

As you can see, one chance is all you get with a PRIMENET system. A minor note is in order here regarding all the myriad of X's in the above example. I have masked the last three digits of the system's NUA (Network User Address), for I do not wish all you eager PRIMOS hackers to start banging on my system's front door (grrr). I have also edited the system's redname from its actual redname to a more appropriate one (grrr). I will continue to mask all system identification from my examples. So far you are accustomed to typing in LOGIN and pressing RETURN to start logging in. On all Primes you can see the 'LOGIN' command and your User ID in the same line, as is illustrated in the following example:

```
Login user:
Password? <not echoed>
```

And on a very few other Primes you can do a full LOGIN next, as such:

```
Login user password
You might not wish to use full logging capability when other hackers are lurking about, as they might decide to practice shoulder surfing (grrr).
```

```
If a User ID/password combination (hereafter referred to as an account) is valid, you will receive the following login header from PRIMOS:
```

```
USER (user 87) logged in Sunday, 22
Jan 89 16:15:40.
Welcome to PRIMOS version 21.0.3
Copyright (c) 1988, Prime Computer,
Inc.
Serial #serial number (company
Name)
Last login Wednesday, 13 Jan 89
23:37:46.
```

'serial number' and 'company name' will be replaced by the actual serial number and company name of the company that owns the Prime computer site.

Just one more small thing: I need to cover about the 'LOGIN' command right now, and that's login troubles. Troubles? You betcha. The first trouble occurs when the account you login to exists and is valid, but it doesn't have an initial ATTACH point (in other words, you don't seem to have a home directory). This is no fun, since the account cannot be logged into. Bah. The other trouble is remote user passwords. This is definitely no fun. The prompt for such are generally different from one another, as they run both commercial and custom written software to handle this. When you come upon a remote password, try the User ID and, if that doesn't work, then try the system's redname. If both of these attempts fail, you can either keep trying passwords (brute-force hacking), or you can give it up and move on to the next account or system. A popular commercial front-end security package is 'LOGINSENTRY' from Gramma Software Systems, Inc. 'LOGINSENTRY' is an excellent package, so good luck when you go up against it. It supports remote passwords, password aging, old-password debarring, etc.

A PRIME SYSTEM

Here is a listing of default PRIMOS accounts along with some other accounts I find that work occasionally (i.e., more than just once):

NOTE: The '*' and '?' symbols are not parts of the User ID.

- User ID Password
- Comments:
- * ADMIN ADMIN; ADMINISTRATOR
- * ADMINISTRATOR administrator account
- * CMDNCO CMDNCO
- * DEMO DEMO; UFD maintenance
- * DEMO DEMO; GUEST
- * DMAG DMAG
- * DIAG DIAG
- * FAM FAM
- * FAM FAM
- * FILE Access Manager
- * GAMES GAMES
- * GUEST GUEST; VISITOR
- * GUEST GUEST; VISITOR
- * DENIE DENIE
- * HELP HELP
- * HELP HELP
- * INFO INFO
- * INFO INFO
- * JCL JCL
- * JCL JCL
- * JOB Control Language account
- * LIB LIB; LIBRARY
- * LIBRARY library maintenance account
- * NETMAN NETMAN
- * NETPRIV NETPRIV
- * NETWORK priv account
- * NEWS NEWS
- * NEWS account
- * NONETPRIV NONETPRIV
- * NETWORK priv account
- * PRIME PRIME
- * PRIME account
- * PRIME PRIME
- * PRIME account
- * PRIMOS PRIMOS
- * PRIME account
- * PRIMOS.CL PRIMOS.CL
- * PRIME account
- * REGIST REGIST
- * USER registration account
- * RJE RJE
- * RJE RJE
- * STUDENT STUDENT; SCHOOL

* Student account (only on schools)

- * SYSADM SYSADM; ADMIN
- * SYSADM SYSADM; ADMIN
- * SYSTEM SYSTEM
- * SYSTEM SYSTEM
- * TELNET TELNET
- * TELNET TELNET
- * GTE Telnet account
- * GTE Telnet account
- * TEST TEST
- * TEST TEST
- * TEST TEST
- * TOOLLS TOOLLS
- * TOOLLS TOOLLS

Several of these combinations will not work, as they are initial system setup accounts and the administrator often setup, changes them or completely removes them. (Prime Computer, Inc. advises that I have denied these accounts with a '*' symbol.)

The accounts marked by a '?' are the ones that I find work most commonly. More often than not they have good passwords (last exception to GUEST).

Notice SYSADM! Say, isn't that a UNIX default? Sure it is, but I have found it to work, so many, times that I just had to assume it was a default of some sort.

As for TELNET I have yet to see it work, but Carter/Culbert states in the LOG HACKER'S Technical Journal (the on PRIMOS (LOG) JOURNAL 2) that it works sometimes.

Lastly, unlike UNIX, the PRIMOS LOGIN subsystem is not case dependent. This is good, as case dependency gets boring at times. User ID 'system' is the same as 'SYSTEM'. PRIMOS maps all command line input to upper case prior to processing it. This is true for logins and commands.

Although your typing appears in lower case, PRIMOS interprets it in upper case. No big deal, just thought I'd mention it.

The PRIMOS Command Line

Believe I go on any further, some discussion on the PRIMOS command line is in order. The command line is the argument that accepts your input and then transports the input to the command processor (known affectionately as '(processcommand') for parsing.

The PRIMOS command line is interesting in the fact that it utilizes two prompts in its execution. These prompts are 'OK' and 'ERR'. There is no difference in the two.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

The reason for internal and external commands is twofold. The PRIMOS files (usually located in the DOS directory) take up a lot of memory. Not all Prime systems have whopping loads of memory, so Prime made sure that PRIMOS was able to be executed disklessly (memory constraints, wise!) on all system models. Only the most important commands were built inside of PRIMOS. Less vital (yet still vastly important) commands were made to be external commands. Secondly, different sites have different needs. Prime recognized this need and their command structure allows for the easy customizing of PRIMOS commands (adding, changing, removing, creating). It's an ideal setup, really.

Making Your Stay Last Longer

Now that you have logged in, there are a few things that you should do immediately to ensure a not long visit. You should make this procedure routine and do it every time you login.

Once logged in you will see the login header and then, assuming the account is not captive (more on captive accounts later), get the system prompt (generally an "OK"). You are now using PRIMOS and the prompt signifies that you are at the PRIMOS command line. Most Primes use the standard "OK" prompt, but some do not. For this series, I shall assume that your Prime uses the "OK" prompt. Now, type some nonsensical command. Try `at`. Here is what should happen:

```
OK, at
Not found ARF (atdscp)
ERI
```

Notice that when you enter an invalid command you get a new prompt. On all standard systems, it is "ERI". Again, this prompt can be changed and, throughout this series, I shall assume that it is set to "ERI".

NOTE: `atdscp` means Standard Command Processor. Sometimes instead of `atdscp` you will get a (processorname) error. They are the same thing, just different names for different revision levels.

Now that you are in, you are going to want to perform a few actions to make sure

that you are safe. The first of these actions is to run off an `COMO` file. `COMO` is the abbreviated form of the `COMOOUTPUT` command. `COMOOUTPUT` turns on a buffer much like your terminal program's copy buffer. From the time a `COMO` file is turned on everything you type and everything PRIMOS sees to you will be logged to a SAM (sequential access method) file (a text file). To turn off a `COMO` file you will type this at the system prompt:

```
OK, como -o
```

The "E" argument means "END" and will end any `COMO` processes. If you want to see what you are typing then perhaps the `INITIATING COMO` command turned off all initial output. You can turn it back on by typing:

```
OK, como -ty
```

To save time, nest the arguments as such:

```
OK, como -e -ty
```

The next thing you should do is make sure that you are the only person using the account you logged in to (we don't want any late users on our hands, now do we?). Do this by typing:

```
OK, stat me
```

Assuming you are logged in as user PRIME, PRIMOS will output the following

```
Line
User      No exit decd Devices
PRIME     87 125( 85) <USER05>
The "User" column displays your User ID. The "No" column lists your user number. The "Line" column indicates the AMLC line you are using (the physical modem line) in both octal and decimal notation. The "Devices" column displays the current disk partition that you are attached to. In this case, we are attached to the <DISK05> disk partition.
```

If you find that there is more than one of you logged in, then you should make a hasty exit and logout. There is a correct way to logout and an incorrect way to logout. The correct way to logout is listed below. Move hang up on a Prime. Always logout in the illustrated fashion.

```
OK, rstem
```

TO PRIMOS

OK, to
The `RSTEM` command empties your terminal read (input) and write (output) buffers. This throws away anything in your type ahead buffer and gets rid of all output pending. The `LO` command logs you out of the system. When you logout you will see a message similar to this:

```
PRIME (user 87) logged out Sunday,
 22 Jan 89 16:23:56.
Time used: 00h 08m connect 00m
03s CPU, 99m 00s IO.
```

Everything listed in this message should be self explanatory by now, but in case you are still bewildered, the context line is how long your session lasted in hours and minutes. The CPU time indicates how much actual time you manipulated the central processing unit (CPU) listed in minutes and seconds, and the IO time indicates how much actual disk I/O (access) you performed in minutes and seconds.

Assuming that no one else is using the account you are logged into, take a look and see who else is on the system. Do this by typing:

```
OK, stat me
```

The Prime will display the following to you:

```
Line
User      No exit decd Devices
SYSTEM   1 88r 3) <COMDEV>
SMITH     5 9) <USER05>
JOHNSON 70 104( 69) <COMDEV>
PRIME     87 125( 85) <USER05>
TIMER
PROCESS 123 Kernel <COMDEV>
LOGIN_   124 LSR <COMDEV>
SERVER   124 LSR <COMDEV>
DSMSSR  125 DSM <COMDEV>
DSMSSR  126 DSM <COMDEV>
SYSTEM
MANAGER 127 SMS <COMDEV>
LIB      129 phant <COMDEV>
AL132
LOP      130 phant <COMDEV>
```

```
AL133
PRD      131 phant <COMDEV>
BATCH   132 phant <COMDEV>
SERVICE 132 phant <USER01>
SYSTEM  133 phant <COMDEV>
SYSTEM  134 phant <USER01>
SYSTEM  135 phant <COMDEV>
SYSTEM  136 phant <USER01>
SYSTEM  136 phant <COMDEV>
```

Notice how the `STAT US` command's user display procedure is identical to that of `STAT ME`. Let me explain these users now. What's there to explain about users, you ask? Why, yes. Some of the users listed above aren't actual people, but rather phantom users, processes that ensue on their own.

Look at `SYSTEM`. See how the User ID doesn't have a line listing? Instead of the familiar octal and decimal AMLC line listing, it says "ast". Also notice how `TIMER`, `PROCESS` is listed as "Kernel". The list goes on too, as you can see. `LOGIN_SERVER` is "LSR", `DSMSSR` and `DSMSSR` are "DSM", and `SYSTEM_MANAGER` is "SMS". Also notice all those users listed as "phant".

Basically, all User IDs that lack octal/decimal AMLC line notation are not actual people and cannot farm you with the exception of `SYSTEM_MANAGER` and `SYSTEM`. These users, while not people, are consoles, terminals if you will, that are logged in all the time. One monitors the system's front door and logs to screen and disk (and occasionally printer) and logs (successfully and unsuccessfully) and logs. The other just sits there, waiting for the system manager to do whatever he likes. A good way to tell if either of these User IDs is active is to look and see where they are attached to (i.e., the info displayed in the "Devices" column). If you see it attached to an MFD (Main File Directory) other than the root MFD, then advise and come back later.

LSR is the login server. It is what you "talk to" (in a manner of speaking) when you connect to the Prime initially. Member's

HACKING ON

PRIMES

the heart of the PRIMOS operating system. When you have logged in, you are talking directly to it. "phant" users are phantom processes (batch jobs) that are executing independent of a system kernel. They perform rudimentary tasks such as running the printer, backing up the system, running the RJE and Batch Job Managers, etc. They perform many activities, almost always geared towards the system's needs. DSM users are Distributed System Management utilities running as phantoms. The DSM utilities are present to help the System Admin administrator his system. There will be more on the DSM utilities later in this series.

Basic PRIMOS Commands and Information About PRIMOS Files

We're all ready to start covering the first PRIMOS commands to add to your new repertoire. In this section you will learn how to move around PRIMOS directory structures, how to view files, how to get full status on the Prime system, and how to get further help.

First off, let me tell you a little bit about directories and how they are set up. On each logical disk on a Prime, there is a root directory called the MFD (Main File Directory). Each MFD on a system has a unique number after it. In this manner all logical disk MFD's are separate from one another. Below the MFD's are directories called UFO's (User File Directories). It is the UFO's that users login to. Not all UFO's, however, are login directories. All directories below the UFO level are called sub-UFO's (subdirectories). Not all UFO's have sub-UFO's. Sub-UFO's can also have sub-UFO's under them. It's set up a lot like most microcomputer Disk Operating Systems.

When you login you will be attached to your account's initial attach point file, your "home" directory. This will most likely be a UFO, but in some cases you will attach to an MFD. In any case, to move from directory to directory you'll use the ATTACH command. You can abbreviate ATTACH with an A. PRIMOS understands ATTACH and A as being the same command. The basic format of ATTACH is:

ATTACH pathname

To attach to an MFD you would type:

OK, a mild #

Where # is the logical device number of the MFD you wish to attach to. MFD numbers always start out at 0 and increment sequentially. If you are attached to an MFD or a UFO you simply need to use the MFD name you wish to attach to as the pathname. If you wish to attach to sub-UFO's then you will need to use the full pathname. Here are some examples:

OK, a mild 0

OK, a primenet*

OK, a info

Top-level directory not found or

Inaccessible. INFO (ATTACH)

OK, a primenet* info

Notice how when you used to attach to info you got an error. Well, that was because info is a sub-UFO and you need to supply the full pathname when you attach to sub-UFO's. Notice that when you attached to info in the correct manner you used the '*' character to separate the elements of the pathname.

Locating all the available MFD logical device numbers is easy. Just type:

OK, stat disk

PRIMOS returns the output to you:

Disk	Level	Pdev	System
COMDEV	0	1460	
USER01	1	31460	
USER02	2	32462	
USER03	3	462	
USER04	4	11662	
USER05	5	62060	
USER06	6	101062	

Disk indicates the sector disk partition's root pathname. "Level" is the logical device number of a given partition. "Pdev" is the physical device number. The "System" column will be blank unless a given disk partition is located on another system. What? Impossible? Not at all. With

PRIMENET, Prime's networking software, disk partitions on system B can be accessed from system A. If you are not on a system equipped with PRIMENET then the "System" column will be blank. Move on this in the PRIMENET section.

What is important to us immediately is the data in the "Disk" and "Level" columns. Each of these disk partitions is an MFD.

On some systems you will find two useful utilities, UP and DOWN. These are external commands. They strictly moving around directories in PRIMOS. Here is how to use them:

UP allows you to move up a specified number of levels. The specification of "n" is optional. If you do not specify a value for it, it will have a default value of 1.

DOWN directory_name

DOWN allows you to move down one directory in the tree. You must specify the name of the directory that you wish to move down into. You need only specify the UFO or sub-UFO name. There is no need to specify the entire pathname.

If these utilities are not on the Prime you are on then you can upload them to the Prime's COMMANDS directory (where external commands are stored). There will be more information on this later on.

Viewing files in PRIMOS is as easy as can be. You simply use the SLIST (sequential list) command. The format is as follows:

SLIST filename

You must include the file extension of the file that you are SLISTing. Here is a list of file types and what they mean.

Extension SLISTable? Description

ABBREY	N	Abbreviation files
BAS	Y	BASIC source code
BIN	N	BINARY image file
CBIL	Y	COBOL source code
CC	Y	C Compiler source code
COMI	Y	COMMAND INPUT data files
COMO	Y	COMMAND OUTPUT data files
CPL	Y	CPL (Command Procedure Language) programs
FT7	Y	FORTRAN-77 source code
FTN	Y	FORTRAN IV source code
GVAR	N	Global variable files

PL1	Y	PL1, Subset G source code
PLP	Y	PLP source code
PMA	Y	Prime Macro Assembler source code
RUN	N	Prime-written programs; init cmds (compiled)
SAVE	N	Prime and user-written programs (compiled)

NOTE: The "SLISTable" column indicates that the file type in question is a SAM file (Sequential Access Method - see file) and can be viewed normally by the SLIST

"Prime users are people and people like to use easy-to-remember passwords."

(Sequential list like the TYPE command found on most PCs) command. You can SLIST non-SAM files, but they will come out as garbage and that can be a pain in the ass. If you should SLIST a non-SLISTable file type then use BREAK or CONTROL-C to abort the listing.

A very important command is the LD command (List Directory). LD will display the contents of the current attach directory to use it just type:

OK, M

The LD command supports wildcards, too. If you should want to display all the CPL files in a directory, use LD in this manner:

OK, M @@@cpl

Notice the "@@@" in the above command. It tells LD to do a wildcard search for all files ending with the extension ".CPL". Just experiment with this aspect of LD. It's really quite simple.

Getting more information about the Prime you are on is easy. Just use the STATUS (abbreviated STAT) and LIST commands.

PRIME

HACKING

Remember the STAT US and STAT ME commands I mentioned earlier? Well, as you probably guessed, there are several other options to the STATUS command. Here are the other options and what they do:

NOTE: Capitalized letters indicate the option's abbreviation.

ALL: Displays all info available through STATUS.

DEVICE: Displays physical and logical device numbers of any assigned mag tape drives.

NETWORK: Displays the status of other systems to which your system is attached by PRIMENET.

PROJECT: Displays the Project ID of all users logged in.

SEMAPHORES: Displays the values of user semaphores that have been set on the system. A semaphore is a flag used for synchronizing processes. It is used by cooperating user processes to control access to a single shared resource.

SYSTEM: Shows the system mechanism and revision of PRIMOS.

UNITS: Shows you what file units you have open.

REMARKS: I did not mention the users, ME, or Disk options here, as they were fully detailed earlier.

If the STATUS command is issued without any options, information is provided on the following options in this order: SYSTEM, UNITS, DISK, SEMAPHORE, NETWORK, and ME.

That pretty well sums up the STATUS command. But is that all? Hal no, there is also the LIST command. If you thought STATUS had a lot of options then wait until you check this lovely command out. I will only cover the useful options.

First in the syllabus is the LISTACCESS command. This command will show you what User ID's have access to the UFD that you are currently attached to. Assuming that you are attached to your initial login UFD. Also assume that your User ID is STEVE.SYS. Here is an example of what LIST ACCESS would display:

```
ACL protecting ~*Current
directory~*
STEVE.SYS ALL
SYSTEM ALL
$REST: NONE
```

The above command example displays all of the ACL's (Access Control Lists) regarding your UFD. Notice that you, STEVE.SYS, have all rights to your UFD (naturally). Also notice that SYSTEM has all rights too. Why? Most likely backup purposes. Also notice that \$REST (meaning all other user ID's) has no rights. Now, let's assume you ATTACHED to another user's UFD. Say, JOHN. Here is what you might get:

```
OK, a john
OK, list_access
```

```
ACL protecting ~*Current
directory~*
JOHN ALL
SYSTEM ALL
SIMSON DALURW
$REST LUR
```

Quite a different story here. Again JOHN and SYSTEM have ALL rights here. But wait, SIMSON has DALURW access and \$REST (everyone else) has LUR. What do these cryptic phrases mean? This, I would gather, would be a good time for me to explain the PRIMOS access modes. So glance over at Table A.

As illustrated there, the ALL and NONE acronyms are also PRIMOS access codes. ALL indicates YES to ALL of the above and, as you can tell well guess NONE indicates that all access is denied.

Also be aware that file systems (groups of files) can be protected by an access category. To list the access of an access category type the following command:

```
LIST_ACCESS [category, filename]
```

Next is the LIST_GROUP command. It lists all of the ACL groups to which you belong. These groups may govern access to some files on the system. If you don't belong to any groups then PRIMOS will reply with:

```
No groups. (list_group)
```

Otherwise PRIMOS will respond in the following format:

```
Groups are: HELP ADMINISTRATOR
TORB ETCETERA
```

The LIST_GROUP command can be abbreviated to LG.

LIST_PRIORITY_ACCESS (abbreviation LPAC) is used to display your priority access on any given disk partition. While normally you would use LIST_ACCESS to examine all access rights and priority ACL's on the system object, LPAC is available should a priority ACL can prevent you from accessing directories and from using the LIST_ACCESS command. Command for this is as follows:

```
LIST_PRIORITY_ACCESS [pathname]
[shell]
```

The LIST_QUOTA command (abbreviated LQ) is, in my opinion pseudo-words, lists since file quota information is displayed when the LD (list Directory) command is issued. The LQ command displays current disk quota and storage information for the current (or specified) directory. To issue this command, you need to have L (list) access to the target directory and U (use) access to all higher directories. The proper command format is:

```
LIST_QUOTA [pathname] [-shell]
```

Executed without a pathname, LIST_QUOTA returns information regarding the current directory you are ATTACHED to.

Quotas are storage space constraints set on a directory. The limits are listed in disk records. A 0 quota is great (indicates no quota). A quota of 1 is absolutely lousy. A quota of 10000 is ok. If a directory has a quota of, say, 1000, then the total number of disk records used in that directory and all sub-UFD's below that may not exceed the quota.

If you have P (protect) access on the current UFD then you can use the SET_QUOTA command to change the UFD quota constraint. The format is:

```
SET_QUOTA [pathname] [-Max N]
```

The abbreviation for SET_QUOTA is SQ. The argument -MAX indicates the maximum number of quotas that the specified pathname can store. N is a decimal

number.
Back to the LIST commands. Next up is LIST_ASSIGNED_DEVICES. This command invokes a utility in CMDINFO that will display all devices hooked up to your Prime, such as printers, etc. Disk partitions are not listed by the LIST_

"If you find that there is more than one of you logged in, then you should make a hasty exit and logout."

ASSIGNED_DEVICES command. You can use the USER [option] argument to specify a list of users, by name or number. Assigned devices whose assigned user is not in this list are not displayed. The default is all users. The format is either:

```
LIST_ASSIGNABLE_DEVICES -
USER [user name]
```

or

```
LIST_ASSIGNABLE_DEVICES -USER
[user number]
```

Remember, the -USER argument is optional and not required. It is just useful for listing assigned devices that were assigned by a particular user.

LIST_ASSIGN is another good one. This command displays all of the system's hardware lines and what they are doing. There are three types of assignments that a line can have, and these are:

FREE: Line is free to be assigned.

ASSIGNED: Line is assigned to a hardware device (printer, etc).

LOGIN: Line is available for login (terminal or remote).

The header for the display is as follows:

```
Line number, Line use, Auto speed enabled, Line speed, Line protocol, User number, User name.
```


PRIMOS GUIDE

Line number is the physical line's identification name. Line use indicates how the line is assigned (free, assigned, login). Line speed indicates the speed of the physical line. Line protocol indicates the line factor (either TTY or TTYNOF). TTYNOF means TTY not operational. User number indicates the user number associated with the AMLC line. User name is the actual name of any user/program using that line. I am not too sure about the Auto speed enabled column.

LIST_COMM_CONTROLLERS displays information on all the communication controllers present in a system, excluding the Prime Node Controller. Information is given for each controller and includes the controller name, its type, its device address, the number of synchronous lines attached, and the number of asynchronous lines attached.

LIST_CONFIG displays the current system configuration.
LIST_LAN_NODES displays all nodes on a Prime LAN3000 system. Be aware that this external command works only with Prime's LAN3000 system (so far as my experience goes!).

LIST_SYNC displays all synchronous lines on a Prime system.
LIST_PROCESSES displays the environment of a specified user process. The user's process identity is displayed, together with details of its environment which include: attach points; abbreviation file; active COM and COMO files; connect; CPU and I/O times and limits; the user's ACL groups; and all active remote identities.

There are several more LIST_ com-

mands, but they are not too important at the present moment. If let you learn about them on your own via Prime's excellent online help facility. To use the PRIMOS online HELP facility, just type HELP. Or, if you know what you need help with, type HELP commandline freely quite simple.

User-to-User Communication

It is always useful to know how to send and receive messages when on a computer system, whether you are communicating with other hackers online, or attempting to spoof engineer a legitimate user or system operator. Any user on a Prime may send or receive messages. Messages may be sent from any user terminal to any other user terminal, any user terminal to the system console, the system console to all user terminals, the system console to any specific user terminal or the system console to any system console on another node of the network. (PRIMNET equipped systems only.) Sending messages to users on a Prime is very easy. The message command format is as follows:

MESSAGE [username] [-NOW] [-ON nodename] [-usernumber]

The abbreviation for MESSAGE is M. So instead of typing MESSAGE all the time, you can type M instead.

Node [username] and [username]. When sending messages to a user, you need only specify one or the other. If you want to send a message to user SYSTEM you would type:

OK, m system

That would enable you to send a message to user SYSTEM. Be aware that the

Code	Right	Applies to
P	Protect	Directories
D	Delete	Directories
A	Add	Directories
L	List	Directories
U	Use	Directories
R	Read	Files
W	Write	Files

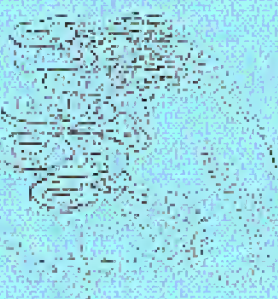
Allows user to
Change accesses and attributes
Delete directory entries
Add directory entries
List directory entries
ATTACH to directories
Read file contents
Change file contents

SUPPLEMENT: RED BOX PROBLEMS



Facts About Public Phones

A red box is not a dangerous device, however, one should exercise common sense, as this gentleman is so doing.



It has come to my attention that a few boxes are having difficulties with their pay. In that same (very) field of the U.S. nation, pay phones, that including (printed) are not registering your "beeps" as a deposited coin. The culprit is the magnet within the mechanism of the pay phone you're using when one tries to use the red box. The magnet in the coin-receiver interferes with the speaker (which is also a magnet) by absorbing the sound. So, if you thought that you've been on the brink of the phone company has implemented some new techniques to stop red boxing, don't worry.

By holding the red box speaker a 1/2" to an inch away from the mouthpiece as you play your tune (if quarters don't work try dimes or nickels) although this may cause the already-curious guy in the neighborhood booth to wonder what's going on, it should work. If not, find another pay phone or try a full-proof radical method and zip out the magnet, so repair service can put a new one in. This should work 100% of the time and it keeps you "ple employed!"

Remember,
Phone breaks never die,
they just build different color boxes.

More (Summer 9, 1989)



HACKING AWAY

message you send will be displayed to ALL users logged in under the User ID of SYS-TEM. In the case that there are more than 1 user with the same User ID logged in at the same time, you might want to use the [usernumber] argument. It works like this:

OK, m-2:

That would send a message to the user with the user number of 2. The message you send in this case would only be sent to the user with the user number of 2. Use either the user name or the user number, but not both. Not using both will cause an error to be displayed by PRIMOS.

If you omit the [username], and [usernumber] arguments then the message will be sent to the system console. Be careful about that.

The NOW argument is optional. If it is specified then the message will be sent to the user immediately. Otherwise the message will be put into a queue and sent only when the target user has returned to PRIMOS command level.

The OK argument need only be specified if you wish to send a message to a user that is logged in on a remote site. This argument will not be required at all if the Prime you are on is not equipped with either the PRIME-NET or the LAN300 networking software packages (by Prime Computer, Inc., of course). In order to use this argument you need to know the remote system's hostname. An example of sending a message to a remote system user is:

OK, m hacker -on sys.o

This would send a message to User ID HACKER on the networked Prime system called SYS-01. Remember, you need to know the correct hostname of the remote system.

Just like in real-life situations (people-to-people), PRIMOS users may or may not wish to speak to you. So before sending a message, you should make sure that the user you wish to communicate with is accepting messages. There are several ways to obtain this information.

Message -STATUS: Lists receive status of all users.

Message -STATUS:username: Lists

receive state of all users with the name of "username".

Message -STATUS:username: Lists receive state of all users with the number of "username".

Message -STATUS: ME: Lists the receive state of your own terminal process.

NOTE: Capital letters in the above forms of the message status commands indicate the legal PRIMOS sub-operations for the commands.

When first entering a session in which you feel you might be doing some user-to-user communication you should issue the user communication status command. This will display the message receive status of all users presently online. Here is an example of the output you might receive:

OK, m-stat:

User	No	State
SYSTEM	1	Accept
PRIME	13	Defect
PRIMOS	24	Accept
HACKER	37	Reject
RAGE	43	Accept

In the above example you notice that there are five processes logged in, one of them being the physical system console. The "No" column denotes the user's user number, while the "State" denotes their message receive state.

Notice how there are three messages receive states listed, accept, defect, and reject. In theory, these states are confined as such:

ACCEPT: Enables reception of all messages.

DEFECT: Inhibits immediate messages.

REJECT: Inhibits all messages.

If you are set to accept all messages sent to you will be displayed on your terminal immediately. In defect mode, messages will not appear until what you are doing is done (i.e., a message will not appear while in the middle of a currently executing command). In reject mode no messages will be received by you.

Setting a receive state is useful when you do not wish to be disturbed. It is especially useful to use receive elements when

AT PRIMOS

using any of the PRIMOS editors or utilities. Sending messages while in reject mode and sending immediate messages while in defect mode is not permitted as the user you are attempting to communicate with will not be able to respond.

To set your message receive state, simply type:

Message-state

State is either accept, defect, or reject. Quite simple.

You are advised to avoid sending messages to the system console as that could be potentially hazardous to your stay on a Prime computer system. Pressing legitimate users is also not desired. Use your common sense.

Internal Snooping Tactics

Once inside a Prime, your paths are many. Some lead to glory, others to deletion of your account (gulp). To aid you in choosing the correct paths, you must snoop about your newfound host. By doing this, you can learn many things, some of which include: who owns the Prime and what they are doing on it, more accounts on the system, or more accounts on different Prime systems.

There is plenty for you to do. I strongly urge that you make the snooping procedure a routine and that you do it immediately upon obtaining an account, as you never know how long it might last.

Finding out who owns the Prime and what they do on it is always rewarding. The best systems I have been on were Prime Computer, the development systems, and partly development systems, and Primes belonging to certain telephone companies (which shall, of course, remain nameless). Depending upon who owns the host, you may obtain a bit more information that you had expected.

More accounts on the system is what you are really after, however. Many users are exceedingly lax. A brief inspection of all mail in the queue can sometimes yield accounts, as can individual programs (source code) and documents.

As for more accounts on different systems, I am saving that for the future section

on Prime networking. There will be a host of information regarding the advanced snooping tactics used in order to snoop about PRIME-NET based systems and their respective Token-Ring/LAN300 networks.

Internal Security

Before you can really start exploring your new Prime, you need to understand how PRIMOS internal security is implemented and how to get around it. As you have seen from the section on basic PRIMOS commands, PRIMOS utilizes access control lists (ACLs). Getting around ACLs is almost an impossibility.

Also you will occasionally run into password directories. To attach to a passworded directory, you would type something similar to this:

OK, a 'dirname password'

Notice how you followed the directory name with the password and enclosed the entire deal with quotes. If you were going to attach to a passworded user UFD you might type something like this:

OK, a 'primenet'@source password'

Passworded directories can be a pain in the ass, but unlike ACLs, they can be gotten around. Look inside CPL programs (by SLISTING them) for occurrences of ATTACH statements enclosed in single quotes. There's about all the internal security in PRIMOS up to the current revision level (22.0.0).

Exploiting the Vast Reserves of a Prime

When looking around a Prime always start in your initial attach UFD. Check out every file in it and every file in sub UFDs under it. When finished there, move on up to MFD 0 and start downloading to the many UFDs there and look at everything. SLIST all SAM files, read all mail, look at everything. Leave no UFD or attached file alone on the un-leashed.

Understandably it will take a good few hours (sometimes as many as 12) to fully investigate a Prime, but believe me, it is worth it. Capture everything that looks valuable to your buffer. When done looking, leaving everything you captured

EXCHANGE LIST:

201 AREA CODE

by The Index
 EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a list of valid exchanges in the 201 (Northern New Jersey) area code. This is useful for those "hidden" exchanges, the AT numbers, ring-backs, or times that normally appear that in June of 1981, the month part of 201 will be again 200 808. Other new area code listings for a total of 152 later this year, 805 in April of 201 in 1981, and 510 in April of 411 in 1981.

201 Somerset	202 Somerset	203 Somerset	204 Somerset
205 Somerset	206 Somerset	207 Somerset	208 Somerset
209 Somerset	210 Somerset	211 Somerset	212 Somerset
213 Somerset	214 Somerset	215 Somerset	216 Somerset
217 Somerset	218 Somerset	219 Somerset	220 Somerset
221 Somerset	222 Somerset	223 Somerset	224 Somerset
225 Somerset	226 Somerset	227 Somerset	228 Somerset
229 Somerset	230 Somerset	231 Somerset	232 Somerset
233 Somerset	234 Somerset	235 Somerset	236 Somerset
237 Somerset	238 Somerset	239 Somerset	240 Somerset
241 Somerset	242 Somerset	243 Somerset	244 Somerset
245 Somerset	246 Somerset	247 Somerset	248 Somerset
249 Somerset	250 Somerset	251 Somerset	252 Somerset
253 Somerset	254 Somerset	255 Somerset	256 Somerset
257 Somerset	258 Somerset	259 Somerset	260 Somerset
261 Somerset	262 Somerset	263 Somerset	264 Somerset
265 Somerset	266 Somerset	267 Somerset	268 Somerset
269 Somerset	270 Somerset	271 Somerset	272 Somerset
273 Somerset	274 Somerset	275 Somerset	276 Somerset
277 Somerset	278 Somerset	279 Somerset	280 Somerset
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465 Somerset	466 Somerset	467 Somerset	468 Somerset
469 Somerset	470 Somerset	471 Somerset	472 Somerset
473 Somerset	474 Somerset	475 Somerset	476 Somerset
477 Somerset	478 Somerset	479 Somerset	480 Somerset
481 Somerset	482 Somerset	483 Somerset	484 Somerset
485 Somerset	486 Somerset	487 Somerset	488 Somerset
489 Somerset	490 Somerset	491 Somerset	492 Somerset
493 Somerset	494 Somerset	495 Somerset	496 Somerset
497 Somerset	498 Somerset	499 Somerset	500 Somerset

(Continued on page 46)

SCANNING

FOR CALLS

by Mr. Upsetter

A radio scanner is a fun and useful tool for anyone interested in eavesdropping on phone calls. This article will be primarily concerned with receiving two types of telephone calls: cordless and cellular.

Although some of the old cordless phones operated on 1.6-1.7 MHz, the new ones operate on 46 and 49 MHz. Usually the base transmits both sides of the conversation on 46 MHz and the handset transmits only one side on 49 MHz. There are also phones which operate only on 49 MHz.

The following is a list of corresponding base and handset frequencies:

base (MHz)	handset (MHz)
46.610	49.670
46.630	49.645
46.670	49.660
46.710	49.770
46.730	49.875
46.770	49.830
46.830	49.890
46.870	49.930
46.930	49.990
46.970	49.970

The cordless phone transmits on these frequencies have a range of about 1000 to 2000 feet. That's plenty of range to eavesdrop on all your neighbors. The longest range I've gotten is about 3000 feet with an indoor telescopic antenna. If you know your neighbor has a cordless

phone and you want to find his frequency, program the frequencies I've listed into your scanner, then call your neighbor. When he answers (hopefully on the cordless), scan the frequencies and you should hear your own conversation.

It is obvious that anyone's cordless phone conversation could be received with ease. If you use a cordless phone, you should be concerned about security. It is not unlikely that someone near you has a scanner. Uniden Corporation, a major manufacturer of scanners, reports that there are scanners in over four million American homes. Think twice before you use that cordless phone.

Cellular phone transmitters are also easy to receive. The frequencies allocated to cellular phones are in the 900 MHz band. Scanners that receive the 800 MHz band are much more expensive than other scanners with standard coverage. Some manufacturers also block out cellular phone reception in their scanners. However, in my location (San Diego) I discovered a cellular service that operates between 451 and 459 MHz. These frequencies are covered by virtually all scanners on the market. The company using this system is called Vectorone Cellular. They use the following frequencies:

451.2675	452.7625	454.4375
451.400	452.8625	454.650
451.500	453.2675	454.8625
451.600	453.600	454.9525
451.7125	453.8125	454.1175
451.8125	453.9125	455.3675
451.925	454.025	455.4675
452.125	454.050	457.200
452.2375	454.225	457.5125
452.3375	454.275	458.775
452.500	454.325	
452.650	454.3375	

If you own a scanner I would suggest searching the 450 MHz band to see if there is a similar cellular service in your area. Needless to say, I was surprised to find a cellular service operating on this band. I finally found out the name of the company after hearing the transmission of a recorded message which said "the Vectorone user you called is not available," which is played when one mobile user tries to call another unavailable mobile user. A quick check in the phone book verified the company's existence.

While we're on the subject of snooping, I would like to point out another interesting method. Some people use an "electronic babysitter" to keep track of their kids. An "electronic babysitter" is basically a radio (usually FM) transmitter that is placed in the child's room so the mother can hear the kid cry or whatever from another part of the house using the matching receiver. Some of these "electronic babysitters" transmit on 46 and 49 MHz along with cordless phones. One near my house

transmits continuously on 49.63 MHz. People in effect bug their own houses by using an "electronic babysitter" would estimate the range of these units to be about about 500 to 1000 feet. Scanners have many other uses besides eavesdropping on phone calls. If you happen to be a criminal, you can keep track of the police with one. You can also hear air, marine, fire, business, military, and countless other transmissions. Scanners are pretty cheap. A decent one can be bought for about \$100. Scanner World in Albany has a good selection and prices. Their address is 10 New Scotland Ave., Albany, New York, 12206. Dealing is two bucks. Also, CRB Research has quite a few frequency directories. Their address is Box 56, Commack, NY 11725. Radio Shack also sells a few scanners and frequency guides.

GOT SOMETHING TO SEND US? NOW YOU CAN FAX IT! OUR ULTRA-COOL FAX MACHINE WILL ACCEPT YOUR DOCS AND DATA 24 HOURS A DAY. CALL 516-751-2608

The Voice

The South African

Phreak Crisis

Posted on one of our BBS's:

By the time you read this, the South African post office, which controls our sole telecom company, and which is directly controlled by the government, will have changed their method of charging. Instead of the present method of not metering local calls, they will now work on a pay-for-time basis as used on our trunk calls. So instead of being able to stay online for as long we want, we will now either have to work out a way of phreaking or find dedicated "unprotected" terminals in order to slay on the international computer networks.

South Africa's telephone system is in its most vulnerable stage. We are in the process of moving from the mechanical exchange system to the digital system. This means we are running on a dual system - hopefully easier to phreak. About 55 percent of the country is digital and 45 percent mechanical.

Our system is nothing like the U.S. We have just been introduced to toll-free numbers (we call them 0100's). Conferencing systems are controlled by the post office, and are expensive as well as small.

Systems such as voice recognition banking services are only just being started. Overseas calls are expensive and the charges are the same at all times. Only approved equipment may be used on the lines (hell-hell), although there are various places where we can buy U.S. stuff until they are closed down anyway!

Because I don't have much experience in the phreaking area (I'm more into the use of systems on the end of the line), I need information on possible ways to get back onto the net.

Should we not succeed in "breaking" our disgusting telephone system, there will be a lot of networkers who will be forced to stop.

We should point out that many people throughout the world face the problem of toned calls, i.e. the longer you stay on, the more you're billed. Over here, businesses pay timed rates for local calls no matter how close they are. But we're certain that there is a way out for SAP's (South African Phreaks), considering that it's a new system with a potential for bugs. The most obvious solution lies in the 0100 numbers, just as many phreaks in this country use 800 numbers to bypass billing.

of Our Readers

Payphone Query

Dear 2600:

Great magazine! Just got my first issue and am going to order more back issues when I've got the money. If you could focus a bit more on phreaking instead of hacking, us country boys would appreciate it.

In regards to your Spring '89 fortress phone article, I ask you this: since private payphones are put on normal customer lines, wouldn't it be possible to receive a collect call from someone using an AT&T payphone elsewhere? The AT&T operator wouldn't know it's a payphone, right? I've heard of this working before.

Uncle Ho

The key here is screening. Any telephone number can be screened to prevent collect calls from being processed. This includes your home number, COCOT's (Customer Owned Coin Operated Telephones, i.e. private payphones) are supposed to be registered with the local phone company so they can charge the payphone owner more for what is really just a regular phone line. We assume the phone company would install the screening automatically at that point. But that's not to say it won't work. Some long distance companies still don't have access to the

database that tells them what numbers are screened. So if

you place a collect call through them, it could go through to ANY payphone, not just a COCOT. And there are still instances where a local operator or an AT&T operator will screw something up and send a collect call to a payphone.

The key is to keep trying. By the way, the "real" payphones are now considered to be the ones operated by the BOC's (Bell Operating Companies): Mynex, Southwestern Bell, U.S. West, Pacific Telesis, Ameritech, Bell South, and Bell Atlantic. AT&T is currently making payphones that are used as COCOT's. In other words, using an AT&T phone is no guarantee that you are not using a COCOT. The only guarantee is whether or not one of the BOC names appears somewhere on it.

UNIX Made Easy

Dear 2600:

Thank you for printing Red Knight's excellent series of articles about hacking UNIX! Too much of your magazine is of an arcane, technical nature and it was a great relief to see an article written by a beginner and for the rest of us beginners about the basics of using UNIX. I do not have any expensive UNIX manuals, and I feel

You Too Can

Knight's summary saved me the trouble of buying these manuals from my bookstore. Remember, information doesn't have to be secret or complicated to be useful!

Thanks again and keep up the good work!

Did You Know?

Dear 2600:

There is good reason to put return addresses on the back of mail. While snooping in first class mail goes on all the time, any information obtained in this manner would be inadmissible in court. There is no restriction on copying the outside of the envelope, however. If the return address is on the back, there is no proof that it was on the same envelope as the "to" address.

Name Withheld

Not with someone fluent in two-sided copying machine...

Dear 2600:

Some quick reference notes: Specialized System Consultants (P.O. Box 55549, Seattle, WA 98156) produces very complete quick-reference guides for UNIX, C, Fortran, and other high-level languages/operating systems. For \$6, they will send a quick-reference guide for UNIX to you.

Write A Letter

Somewhere between 0 to 4 seconds before the first ring on an incoming call, the telephone equipment's completing marker will release the incoming call's trunk onto the line. When this occurs, the phone line voltage will momentarily drop to 0 volts. If you are monitoring the line with a high impedance test set, you will hear a loud "click". If the phone line voltage was at 0 volts for approximately 250 ms, then the incoming call is coming from within the same office equipment. If the voltage was at 0 volts for a much shorter time (approximately 80 ms), then the call is coming from a distant office.

It is possible to build a circuit that would sense the 0 voltage level time and indicate the type of incoming call (same office equipment or distant office equipment) when the first ring occurs.

JWC

Since we happen to be on a 45 crossbar for at least another year, we could use such a device, if someone would care to design one for us.

Stories Wanted

Dear 2600:

For an upcoming book on computer crime in the 80's and beyond, I would welcome correspondence from anyone with anecdotes or personal experience concerning Jerry Schneider, Stanley Mark Rifkin, Neil Patrick, Harold Rosfelds Smith, Robert Morris, or Kevin Mitnick. Please address any responses to Buck Bloombecker, 2700 N. Calaverga Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90068 or call 213-874-8233.

JJ Buck Bloombecker, Esq., Director National Center for Computer Crime Data

Tuning In Calls

Dear 2600:

I received your Winter 88-89 issue and found the "Overhearing Phone Calls" very informative. Concerning short-wave radio listening, I thought your readers might like some hints on tuning them in. First, sweep through the band with the beat frequency osc. on. If you leave it off, then you could miss the entire band. Second, only try to adjust the BFO when the strongest of the two voices is speaking. If you only receive the base station, think of this: you may be out of range of the ship at sea. Also note that the equipment is not really fancy. I got a surplus receiver for \$3 and use it with a piece of wire duct taped around my room. I can receive signals from around the globe on it. Fern Washington, DC 1

Crossbar Trick

Dear 2600:

If your telephone line's central office equipment is #5 crossbar, here is a way to tell if an incoming call is coming from within the same office equipment or a different office.

Mr. Upsetter

Dear 2600:

The Spring 1989 issue was the best in a long while! Glad to see you getting back to your roots, phones!

S. Fox

Dear 2600:

The ANI for 619 is 211-2111. Also the ringback for parts of San Diego is 1-332-XXXX, where XXXX is the last four digits of the phone number. Hang up quickly until a steady tone comes on, then hang up. The phone will ring.

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Summertime

Just Say No

receive ship to shore calls that must be coming from Annapolis (39 miles) or Baltimore (36 miles). This assumes the ships I listened to were in the Chesapeake Bay.

Cyber Punk

Austrian Phreaking

Dear 2600:

In Austria we have a very sad situation concerning the phone system. Our system uses pulse dialing only and dates back to the fifties. Charging is being done by hand every month (!!). They photograph the charge counters (mechanical of course) every month and the clerk types them into their 15-year-old computer that prints the phone bills.

Collect calls or any of the other features you "enjoy" in the U.S. don't exist in Austria. However, they started introducing an MF-system in some parts of Vienna recently and blue boxing seems to be safe as far as I know. The situation is improving.

Hacking in Austria is pretty boring because phone costs are astronomically high (1 minute local 50 cents!!!). Most systems do not use direct-dial but leased lines for communications.

WMA

Dear 2600:

Here's a note of possible interest.

Congressman Keweenaw Mifflin (D-MD) introduced a bill (H.R. 1504) that would make it a criminal offense for persons under the age of 21 to possess a beeper. Presumably, this is because many drug dealers use beepers to keep in touch with their customers. But banning the use of an innocent piece of telephone technology by the young is a pretty sneaky way to deal with the drug problem. Also, why age 21 instead of 18? What happens in college students and others trying to earn a living as messengers, field technicians, or some other job requiring the use of a beeper? Maybe we should lobby against this bill. (H.R. 1504 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.)

Phil

We certainly should lobby against this bill. It's another crystal clear example of high tech phreak. This time, instead of trying to figure out why drugs have become such an essential crutch to so many of us, the authorities think that making a small bit of technology illegal will somehow solve the problem. For one thing, beepers don't make drug deals.

Letters

People do. Beepers are a tool, like telephones, notepads, pocketbooks, and automobiles. Should all of these be made illegal to certain people who might use them to deal drugs? More importantly, these well-meaning clods are overlooking a grossly obvious fact. Dealing drugs is illegal. So how can they expect anyone who illegally deals drugs to suddenly honor the law and not carry a beeper? The only people who will be inconvenienced by this law will be the law-abiders, who obviously are not the targets of the law!

A Myriad of

Questions

Dear 2600:

My path to you has been long and twisting, beginning with me reading the book "Hackers". From there, I tracked down the infamous 1971 Esquire article, "The Secrets of the Little Blue Box". I became interested in blue boxes and began searching for plans with which to build one. I finally turned up a chief engineer at a television station who had a 1975 *QJ* magazine containing red box and blue box plans along with the MF tone listing. I also found the tone listing in "Reference Data for Radio Engineers", along with

some in-depth telephony information that I can't quite grasp. Subsequently, I halfway built a blue box, but became disinterested for a while. When it came time for me to leave my job, I decided I'd better finish the thing while I had the facilities. I almost did, but some of the final pot tending was left out. Fortunately, an electrical engineer (and satellite pirate) at my new job had a complete electronics lab and, ironically, your address. So, here I am with a completed blue box (that won't work in most places, I am told). Because I am so terribly far behind the times, I wonder if you might answer some questions that are probably laughably simple to most of your readers? Here goes:

- 1) Why don't blue boxes work anymore, and if a place can be found where they do, why are they so easily traced?
- 2) One of the guys at your office alluded to the fact that free phone calling is still done. How?
- 3) Do red boxes still work?
- 4) Have there been any recent arrests for phone phreaking? If so, was the punishment severe?
- 5) What parts of the U.S. and Canada are hotbeds for phreakers?
- 6) Could you suggest addi-

The Letters

tional reading on subjects addressed by 2600? (i.e., hacking, phreaking, petty thievery, and the like.) Maybe even magazine articles which are more contemporary than the ones I have.

7) Are the original phreakers and hackers that I have read about still active?

8) The 1971 Esquire article made reference to numbers that could be called for free that set up cross-continent conferencing. Fact or fantasy? Are these numbers still in existence?

9) What is "TAP"? (In reference to the Autumn 1988 Marketplace)

10) Are there other publications like 2600 which are devoted to things that the general public isn't supposed to know?

11) What is the favorite computer used by the modern-day hacker? I saw much reference to the C64, which I thought was a kid's computer.

12) Do you guys have a large following? How big?

13) I understand that caving-dropping on cellular transmissions is pretty simple. What about calling out for free?

14) I remember asking a teleo friend of mine if the trick the kid pulled with the pay-phone in "War Games"

(grounding the mousepiece to the chassis) would work. He seemed to think it would. Was he right?

15) I downloaded an IBM PC program which was supposedly a newer generation of the dialer program used in "War Games." It supposedly only worked on an IBM PC (no compatibles, no XT, no AT). On my Wyses 386, it actually went through a set range of exchanges, but it wouldn't selectively log any computers that it found. Do you know of a program which will do the task on other computers?

16) Are there any sources for IBM PC compatible hacker software?

Well, I am truly an amateur in this field, aren't I? I thank you in advance for your help. I have enclosed some postage for your reply. Please don't print this letter, because it will just advertise my ignorance.

Not if we don't print your name and location, it won't! Besides, we believe there are many readers who have these same questions. Let's go through them one by one.

1) The reason blue boxing is gradually grinding to a halt is because of Common Channel Inter-office Signaling (CCIS).

Never Stop!

Simply put, this system sends the signaling over a data line, separate from the voice line the caller is using. So it becomes impossible for the caller to send his own signals (blue box tone) because he is unable to access the separate data line.

If you can find a terminating point where CCIS has not yet been implemented, blue boxes will still have an effect. But it's easy to be caught because of detection devices that sense 2600 hertz tones being transmitted. You need a 2600 hertz tone to seize the trunk line and gain control of it.) It's also possible to be caught making a very long call to directory assistance, which is something that really isn't any good excuse for. Many phreaks use directory assistance to start a blue boxing adventure. Our 1985 issues have more info on this.

2) Free phone calls can still be made by figuring out access codes to the various long distance companies, making third party calls, or using extenders (usually 800 numbers that give you an outgoing dialtone).

3) Yes, red boxes still work quite well.

4) There are always basis of some sort in the news. The punishments appear to be getting more severe as we demon-

strated in the Spring issue.

5) Phreakers are linked by telephone lines, not by location and you'll find some references. We print them as we get them.

7) If you're talking about the 1971 Esquire article, we'd like to assume that those people have done more on life than just make free phone calls. We consider anybody to be still "active" who believes that what they did in the past contributed to what they do now.

8) You can bet your bottom dollar that those numbers are no longer in existence. But there are plenty of others to take their place. By investigating the sources, you too should find them.

9) TAP was the original phone phreak newsletter that started out as a Xypre publication. It stopped publishing in 1981, although there have been attempts to revive it.

10) There are plenty of magazines that focus on things that you're not supposed to know about. Some we began in 1984, however, we have yet to see one that consistently covers what we cover.

11) The beauty of hacking lies in the fact that it doesn't matter what kind of computer

tips

by Dr. Williams

The phone company will indeed go to extremes. Or so they say. I've been told that they will prosecute anyone who goes rummaging through their garbage bins. I don't know; even though by now I practically make regular rounds through their garbage bins, I've never been charged. That's not to say I've never been caught -- just never been charged. By using common sense and discretion, I've never gotten into trouble. I want to first tell you the benefits of exploring your local phone company's garbage, and then how to do it without getting into trouble.

Thrashing through the telco's garbage bins is hardly a revolutionary notion. Articles on the subject have appeared in both *TAP* and *2600*. I hear tales off and on about the rewards other phreaks gain from trampling through their local telco's garbage bins. I also see text files on various BBS's about trashing.

As far as I'm concerned, there is no equal when it comes to the potential payoff of my telco's refuse bins. Where else would you go to gain valuable information about the phone company other than to the phone company itself? I would estimate that about 80 percent of what I pull out is rather mundane, boring, not practical for my purposes, or useless. But, oh, that other 20 percent really pays off! It gives me a sound idea of the

local and regional picture. Then, publications like *2600*, *Telephony*, and *Telecommunications* help fill up the loose ends and fill in the big picture. Indeed, as far as telco phone information is concerned, the world is a gold mine!

My general rule for deciding which bins to raid is this: the bigger the telco building, the more people work there, the bigger the brass working there, the more I stay away from it. I like buildings that are small, have a lot of gunies working within, and are out of the mainstream. I let these rules guide my raiding activities.

In my area, there are some big telco buildings with art deco decorating that have parking lots the size of malls and have special

"The majority of phreaks have gotten into trouble by their own shortcomings."

teams of workers assigned just to think of the next excuse they can use to get the state utility commission to raise the phone rates. As far as I'm concerned, these are poor targets, security-wise. First, some of these buildings have a private security force working for them, day and night. I'm sure these minimum wage workers

on trashing

have nothing better to do than to make an intentional incident of finding someone going through their garbage. The information that comes out of here is likely to be more sensitive; hence, a more developed security system (which also may include shredding of documents). Second, the access holes into the dumpsters may be limited. The chute to the dumpster may be located on the inside of the building. Or, it may be the case that the dumpster is a king-sized one, which requires a semi-tractor to haul it away. This may translate into a more difficult entrance into the dumpster. Some of these dumpsters also have compactors located inside of them, destroying a lot of documentation. Third, typically more people work the midnight shifts, so your chance of being spotted by an employee is also increased. Fourth, these buildings tend to be located in the business districts of town. This may mean a more overt police presence; at the very least, a faster response time. Fifth, they're more likely to prosecute people going through their dumpsters for "trespassing". So, as tempting as it is (I'm positive a lot of good docs could be found), the reward versus risk ratio is too high for me. The increased chance of being caught does not pay off.

My target lies in the smaller buildings. These buildings are usually physically smaller in size, have

a warehouse-type of exterior, and have a lot of company vans or trucks in the parking lot (as opposed to company cars). These buildings may house switching equipment, maintenance equipment, computer operations, or storage facilities. These buildings are an attractive target for several reasons. First, there is usually no security presence at these locations. This is a definite plus! Second, little or no people tend to work at these locations late at night. No people means no chance of being caught, almost. Third, the police presence is not as strong. Fourth, the garbage containers are easier to access and do not usually have any shredded material inside. Although the information may not be as good, I'm not greedy; the potential payoff justifies the risk.

Equally important to me is my dress. Simply put, I try to dress like a transient rummaging for food. That way, if I'm caught, I'm more likely to be told to hit the road and never come back. I have a special outfit I use just for this purpose. I went to Goodwill and bought the souvenir jacket they had there. I also bought a pair of Levi's that had enough holes in it, including the rear, and a pair of worn out, cut of style slacks. I use a pair of worn out tennis shoes that I've used for two seasons to mow the lawn with! I also wear a

(Continued on page 49)

THE SPRINT GESTAPO

by Larry P.

Yes, Sprint has nailed another one of us. Hopefully, this article will help you know what to do if you happen to get nailed by the evil telcos and maybe even get a laugh or two when you hear how clumsy those types are. Some information has been omitted to protect the identity of the busted one, since his case is still pending and this information could jeopardize his current status as a free man. So, I'll call him "Mike" for simplicity's sake. Here is his story....

One night, Mike decided to boot up his Sprint FON (a trademark of US Sprint Corporation) hacker and dig up some codes. After a while, he had several of them. While he was hacking them out, he was being traced by US Sprint, who, after getting poor Mike's phone number, notified state and local authorities who proceeded to get a search warrant. The very next day they went to his house before he got home. Ringing the doorbell, Mike's dad opened the door. They asked his dad if Mike owned a computer and he said yes, a Commodore. Mike got home at that point, and they showed him the search warrant and entered the house.

Once inside, these five men (one local Forger Squad person, some Secret Service agents, a U.S. Sprint executive and his IBM specialist) went to Mike's room,

The Sprint guy took pictures. The detective and the cops looked through drawers in a random fashion, missing over half of them. They only cast a brief glance at the papers on top of the desk. They never looked in the waste paper basket or behind or under or below or in things. Only part of the desk. In fact, Mike remarked to me that they looked bored and seemed to only want to get the job finished. What a professional attitude for law enforcement agents.

The Sprint executive then said, "Load your hack program, kid!" to Mike. Mike claimed not to know what disk it was on and said that he had to find it first. So while he was pretending to find the right disk, he formatted the disks with the hacker programs. Right under the noses of the dumb leads. After formatting a disk, Mike said, "Oops, wrong disk" and proceeded to format another, until all disks with functional hack programs were deleted. Mike then claimed to have found it and loaded a crash prone, nonfunctional program and said, "See, I didn't hack your stupid system." They had no evidence, since he had formatted the disks with the codes on them. What clumsy cops. They didn't find his notebook hidden in the basement.

The IBM specialist then proceeded to attempt to dismantle the Commodore. I say "attempt" because he had trouble discon-

STRIKE AGAIN!

necting the computer from the color TV, the disk drive, and modem. The screws must have confused him. He ended up ripping apart the connections, no doubt damaging pins and wires. The Sprint executive then put the equipment into garbage-type bags and hauled it to their dark blue Cadillacs. On the way, the executive dropped the disk drive onto the ground. Mike told the Sprint fellow if he damaged it he would pay for it. What was his reply? "See ya in court, kid!" Laughter followed.

They then took Mike to the police station and booked him under a lower class felony for illegal access to lines of a telephone service. Mike hopes it will be downgraded to a misdemeanor, and it may be since they have such little evidence, except for his TV, his computer, and his game disks. They took Mike home at that point. The next day in school, Mike's popularity soared as people learned he was a felon.

Mike and I want to leave you with a bit of advice. First of all, don't hack your codes at night. That is when the fewest people use the network. Instead, do it between 7 am and 10 pm. Also, use multiple target "dummy" numbers. Don't hack the codes sequentially. Have them done randomly, but also have the program automatically reseed the random number generator occasionally

since the pattern can be tracked. If your pattern is tracked, the system might anticipate the next number you will try, and if it is a valid account, turn it off for the time you try it only. They will also print out a card with your phone number. In no way am I implying or suggesting that it is proper to commit any type of fraud. If you decide, however, to commit fraud, heed my warnings. Now Mikey has some things to say:

"Don't mess with Sprint! Wise words indeed."

"To Phreak and be safe, keep your disks and notebook out of your room and well hidden somewhere else. They will only look in your room or near the computer."

They charged Mike with a felony. A felony? They don't charge rapists or muggers with felonies. Why did they take his TV and telephone away? What did they expect to find hidden in it? Hitler's brain? Why did they disconnect his phone for two days? Doesn't it make you feel secure with such competent law enforcement officials handling things?

I will keep in touch with Mike and let everyone know if anything else turns up.

CHINESE SWITCH NUMBERS

(used for turning in "resources" to authorities)
To dial from U.S., prefix with 011-66-1

512-4-9848	512-5-0665
443-2-992	236-5-8883
256-7-2990	372-5-115
664-2-115	665-0-885
301-3-54	072-1-79

Spanish Phones -

and what they don't do

The following article is reprinted from England's Financial Times. It originally appeared last summer, so please take that into account when coming across references to "this year", "next year", etc. We appreciate it.

By Peter Bruce

As the Spanish summer gets hotter, so do Spanish tempers. And with good reason.

In the space of just a few months, it seems that Spain's telephone system, once one of the most efficient in Europe, has all but collapsed. Spaniards lucky enough to have telephones find themselves unable to make calls or are frequently cut off when they do.

On average last week, it was taking nine or ten attempts to call London from Madrid. Getting through is only half the problem -- domestic and international lines crackle and rasp constantly.

Some 350,000 people in Spain are waiting for Telefonica, the once-voume- ed telephone monopoly, to install tele- phones. Most will wait at least six months. About 25,000 Spanish villages do not yet have a public telephone, according to some reports.

A European consumers group in Brussels, in a recent study, said Telefonica was now taking roughly ten times as long as its French, Dutch, or Danish counterparts to install tele- phones.

Other than Greece, Ireland, and Portugal, the study said, Telefonica appeared most frequently at the bottom

of its ratings.

The Spanish service costs double the French and even the West German ones, the Brussels report said, and its rate of wrong connections was the highest in the EC. Last week, it emerged that the Government had appointed a commission to study Telefonica's invest- ment plans for next year -- an extraor- dinary move, considering that Telefonica is a private company.

There seems little doubt that the head of Telefonica's affable chairman, Mr. Luis Solana, is on the block. Although a member of the governing Socialist party, a friend of the Prime Minister, and the brother of the Education Minister, Mr. Solana has seemed desperately short of support as the public outcry over Telefonica's ser- vice has risen.

Opposition politicians have had great fun with a retort attributed to him, to the effect that "perfection is fas- cid".

A colleague recently arrived in Madrid and trying to order a home telephone from his office failed to find anything democratic in being told by the Telefonica functionary at the other end of the line: "Sorry, I can't hear a thing you're saying."

"So whose fault is that?" he asked. Mr. Solana, confronted with failure, has not tried to disguise the scale of the problem. The waiting list for telephones will probably grow, he has said, to 430,000 this year. He has promised that more new

lines will be in place by September. Spain has about 15.5 million tele- phones and 10 million lines. Telefonica plans to install 1.5 million new lines this year and 2.5 million more next year. But there is no saying whether that will improve matters.

Telefonica has been caught wholly unawares by the explosion in tele- phone demand in Spain. In the past two years, applications for telephones have grown by close to eight percent a year, a huge leap on the average two percent growth a year since 1970.

Mr. Solana has said things will be more normal next year, but some Telefonica officials suggest it could take five years.

Appearing on Spanish television this weekend, Mr. Solana said: "My main mistake was not having believed that the Spanish economy would be going as well as it is now. I did not believe statistics forecasting Spain's economic boom." The service was not a catastrophe, he insisted, but it was "improv- able".

What irks Spanish consumers -- and in Barcelona, business groups are warning that the state of the telephones is damaging to competitiveness -- is that this trouble has arrived along with record profits for Telefonica last year and higher-than-ever investment this year and next year.

What hurts even more is that Mr. Solana is about to spend some of that buy 40 percent of a new PTT being cre-

ated there. The Russians have also just signed a deal with Telefonica under which the Spanish are to install a rural telephone network 600 miles from Moscow and a public phone system in the Soviet capital itself.

Mr. Solana's comfort in the short term at least, is that even worse trouble at the Post Office diverts some frustra- tion away from Telefonica. The Spanish postal service estimates that up to 2 million letters and parcels are, effective- ly, stuck at post offices around the country.

The postal unions say this is nar- sense -- there are at least 11 million pieces stuck in Madrid alone.

As Spain approaches its first presi- dency of the European Community next January, the chaos in many of its insti- tutions is going to become embarrass- ing. Europeans who want to complain about it may, however, have to fly or drive to Madrid to do so.

150 Manual: Software, Servers on Computers: Peripherals, Etc., Etc., Security, Memory, Backup, Format, Modem, some very colorful stuff. Dr. Jerry Williams as seen on CBS "60 MINUTES". Send \$9 for both: SALES, CONSUMER POWERS, 28111 Crescent Dr., PO Drawer 557, Alamo, CA 94501. WANTED: IBM PC ATXT/Celeris/Star/Lead Drive, Laser printers, electronic components, and general survival and computer information. Please send descriptions and prices. ALSO WANTED: Tight lipped, two- armed technicians and mission specialists in design/building SPECIAL PRODUCTS.

any free-riding equipment, freely con- sidered, particularly computers, TV and stereo types. Send resume (date of birth), where get more business than we can handle? we would like to be involved!

REVIEWS

The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory by Paul Estey

When it comes to free communications, nothing comes close to the power of radio. And when it comes to radio, nothing is more free than Pirate Radio. In The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory, George Zeller provides another useful publication from Tare Publications (makers of various handy shortwave/DX guides; and director(s) to aid in the search for truth. Here Zeller provides a compendium of the pirates of 1988, as well as a brief history of each one. Details include where and when they were last found, as well as their most recent mail drop. This catalog of about 50 pirate radio broadcasters is meant only for the patient DX'er -- these broadcasters are only on the air for a few hours at a time and frequently change their frequencies.

We know where Zeller spends his holidays and weekends, listening to "KNBS, Cannabis 41," the station with your mind in mind; the shortwave station of the California Marijuana Cooperative. Illegal stations like this have been getting out their word through the power of radio waves which may now be passing through your body as you read these words. The directory covers the not-so-secret voice of Tomorrow, which promises a tomorrow without Blacks, Jews, or capitalists, and praises the work of Nazis. To catch them try 7410 or

6240 KHz and listen for the sounds of a howling wolf over a drum beat (no fading). On September 10, you could have caught "WFIX, where we fix your radio over the air" and listened to Fix-It Bob and Fix-It Bill from Lake Erie. Other stations included are:

Radio Garbarzo, Radio Lymph Node International, Radio Comedy Club International, Radio Glandesine, CBOB (busted by the FCC last November), The Crooked Man (a sort of Dr. Gene Scott of shortwave), Voice of Bob (representing the satirical Church of the Subgenius?). Many of the stations listed are small fly-by-night operations, that may have provided only one broadcast in 1988. Others, like Radio New York International, have had a more notorious history. The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory provides a good start in the search for new, unlicensed voices from beyond.

The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory, 55pp, from Tare Publications, P.O. Box 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. \$8 plus shipping (\$1 US, \$2 Foreign).

Also available from Tare: Los Numeros, The Numbers Stations Log by Havana Moon. This is an extensive list of frequencies of the mysterious numbers stations from around the world. Tune in to hear cryptic sequences of numbers being read aloud in German, Spanish, English, French, and Russian.

The New "TAP"

by Emmanuel Goldstein

Ever since we began printing 2600, people have been asking us whatever became of TAP, the telephonically newsletter founded by the Yuppies in 1971. After five years, we finally seem to have convinced people that TAP is defunct, and that we had nothing at all to do with them. Now it appears another chapter in the saga is unfolding.

Since TAP stopped publishing in 1984, there have been at least a dozen attempts to take over or restart the former Yippee publication. Now, out of Kentucky, an organization has emerged that calls itself TAP and has actually put out an issue. They claim to have a new staff and a new lease on life. It's up to the hackers of the world to decide whether this is really TAP reborn or just another opportunistic attempt to cash in on the name.

A glance at the first issue reveals a format practically identical to the old magazine. Two sheets of paper (unattached) with the old TAP logo, a couple of news clippings, a brief explanation on how to make an unsalable explosive in three steps (for the "home amateur"), and an article exploiting Ethnet. The article takes up about half of the issue.

Yes, it looks like the old TAP. And it even reads like the old TAP. But a lot has happened since TAP last came out. Can this new newsletter simply pick up where the old one left off? We'll know soon enough.

Cheshire Catlyet, the old TAP's last editor, says he would have preferred it had TAP been allowed to rest in peace. He complained of a lack of imagination in the new TAP, particularly in the way they use the

old logos. "It's time to move on and do something different," he said.

Other hackers say that Cheshire has no exclusive right to TAP and that anybody can start it up again if they want to. That's just the way it is with a newsletter like TAP.

But had the publishers simply chosen a new name, a lot of the doubts being expressed in the hacker community simply wouldn't be there. Considering that nobody involved in the new TAP appears to have been involved in the old TAP, are they justified in using the same name? What about those people who lost money to the old TAP? They're likely to pin the responsibility for this on the people of the new TAP. By taking on the name of TAP, the publishers may actually be putting their newsletter at a disadvantage.

There's plenty of room in the hacker community for innovative newsletters and magazines. An electronic hacker newsletter called Phrack is one that built a strong following by doing something different: collecting hacker files and articles and distributing them in a "package" to bulletin boards all over the world. One of their regular articles, Phrack Work! News, is a must-read for many hackers.

The best publications are the ones that tread on new ground and create, not take, a name for themselves. We hope to see the new TAP succeed for being new and different.

At press time, there was one issue of the new TAP known as #92. However, the old TAP also had an issue #92 which was its last and was not widely distributed. To get a sample of the new TAP, just send them a 25 cent stamp. Their address is TAP, PO Box 20254, Louisville, KY 40220.

tips on trashing

(continued from page 33)

cap on my head. On the hygiene side, I do not shower or shave 16 hours before I start my planned activities. I do not comb my hair before I leave. I use a ratty torn backpack to put my material in. In the backpack I carry a half pack of cigarettes (even though I don't smoke), a tin cup, and some beef jerky. I might also take some other items to complete my disguise, depending on what is handy at the time. With this, my outfit is complete. That way, if I'm caught, I'm more likely to be recognized only as a delinquent looking for food, not a phreak looking for information.

When traveling to the target, I always park my car at least three blocks from the scene, sometimes more depending on geography and conditions. It is not unusual for me to park six blocks away. I hide my wallet underneath the seat, and hide the keys in a magnetic lock key set stored under the car.

In over two years of thrashing through the telco's garbage bins, I have been caught twice. Both times, I was told to beat it. I got off because first, I dressed for the part. Second, I practiced what I would say if I got caught. When I actually did get caught, it was easy for me to ramble off a convincing excuse. One time when I was caught, I had taken a half eaten, browned apple in my backpack. When an employee caught me, I showed him my "gains" from their

dumpster, and told him I was looking for food. He was convinced, and told me to get on my way.

I realize that some of those precautions may seem like a bit much. It does take some effort to following them faithfully. But I have heard countless tales of phreaks getting into trouble for bragging to their friends, getting careless with their activities, relaxing their reflexes, or feeling too comfortable and letting down their guard. In my observations, the majority of phreaks have gotten into trouble by their own shortcomings -- not through smart cops and aggressive prosecutors. I have a college career, and in no way do I wish to jeopardize it. So, go out there and thrash around, within reason. The information to be gained is infinitely valuable. Good luck!

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(continued from page 3)

On the personal level, Abbie had a sharp mind and a great sense of humor. He had a terrific enthusiasm for life's little pleasures and his friends compared him to a little kid who loved toys.

We're sorry he never really seemed to reach the younger generation. That upset him quite a bit. But when you consider how Abbie turned the world on its side, a lot of what we do today would probably be done quite differently if he hadn't been around.

So the next time you're playing with a computer somewhere and you feel that little rush of excitement as you realize the endless possibilities, say hello to Abbie. He'll be right there.

Oh, yet another sad note, one of 2600's most knowledgeable and articulate writers died on June 4, 1989 at the age of 22.

David Foxy was known in these pages as "The Shadow" and, most recently, as Dan Foley. On bulletin board systems, David was known as Shadow 2600.

In the days of The Private Sector BBS, Shadow 2600 would always be the person to take charge of a technical discussion and explain things so that everyone could understand. In many ways, The Private Sector was an extension of his ever-present quest to learn and explore. We all benefited from that.

David was shocked along with

REMEMBER

the rest of us when The Private Sector was seized by the authorities in July of 1985. He played a major role in publicizing the action and setting up a support network. Throughout this rather trying time, he never lost sight of our ideas: freedom of speech and the quest for knowledge.

Our sadness over David Foxy's loss won't disappear soon. We gained much from him and he enjoyed the work he did for 2600. Like Abbie, we intend to keep his spirit alive.

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2600 Letters

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you have. Hacking involves using other computers over the phone lines. So you can be a hacker on a dumb terminal that has no computer attached.

Commodore 64's are popular because they're cheap. It says nothing of the ability of the person behind the keyboard. (Incidentally, we like to say that EVERY computer is a kid's computer.)

12) It's big. Believe us. So big that sometimes it's frightening.

13) Eavesdropping is simple if you have access to the frequencies. That is not difficult at all. Making free calls on cellular is probably a lot more trouble than it's worth. If any readers have experiences here, let us know.

14) Sure. But you'd have to find one of those old-fashioned phones that don't give you a dial-tone until you put money in. The trick works on the newer phones in a slightly different way and is detailed in our Spring issue.

15) It sounds like you already have a program that just needs some debugging. We suggest you get a manual or a programmer and figure out what's wrong. By the way, any program that works on an IBM PC should work on a clone -- that's why they're called

clones. Every XT and every AT is considered a PC, in addition.

16) Make some friends in the field and you will see.

There, that wasn't so bad, was it? If anyone out there would like to send us a letter, address it to: **2600 Letters, PO Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953.**

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